

Current Status of the Claims

1. (*currently amended*) A system for the sale of consumer goods,
[wherein] the system [is] **being** designed to provide a customer with a non-
validated token that represents an article of merchandise, [wherein the] said
article [is to be] **being** paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the
5 **non-validated** token [is] **is** checked by said unit, [the] said checkout unit
having a device for communicating with an article dispensing device, [and]
providing the article dispensing device with a first transaction code after the
article has been paid for, and [a device for] providing the customer with a
validated token which [bears] **carries** a second transaction code, [wherein
10 the] said validated token [is to be] **being** used to obtain the purchased article
from the article dispensing device with the aid of a comparator device within
the article dispensing device which compares the **second** transaction code on
the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the **first**
transaction code which has been communicated by said communication
15 device, and [delivery of] **said article dispensing device delivering** the
article when there is a defined code correspondence, [characterised in
that]
**wherein the non-validated token is issued by a printer controlled by an
article token selection panel device that displays articles for which a
20 related non-validated token can be printed on activation of the panel,
wherein the issued non-validated token carries information that is
related to a unique token number and the article type,
wherein the unique token number provided on the non-validated token
constitutes said second transaction code when the token is made into a
25 validated token at said checkout unit, and wherein**
[the validated token bears a transaction code] **said unique token number
when issued by said article token selection panel device is** selected from
the group consisting of:
- a serially generated [transaction] code,
30 - a randomly generated [transaction] code,
- a pre-determined series of [transaction] codes, and
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly [by a device
which provides the non-validated token; and
that the validated token is the non-validated token provided with the
35 transaction code through processing in the checkout unit, said device for
providing the non-validated token is a printer which is controlled by a
selection panel that displays articles for which a non-validated token can be
printed on activation thereof].

2. (*currently amended*) A system for the sale of consumer goods,
[wherein] the system [is] **being** designed to provide a customer with a non-
validated token that represents an article of merchandise, [wherein the] said
article [is to be] **being** paid for by the customer at a checkout unit when the
5 **non-validated** token [in] **is** checked by said unit, [the] said checkout unit
having a device for communicating with an article dispensing device, [and]
providing the article dispensing device with a first transaction code after the
article has been paid for, and [a device for] providing the customer with a
validated token which [bears] **carries** a second transaction code, [wherein
10 the] said validated token [is to be] **being** used to obtain the purchased article
from the article dispensing device with the aid of a comparator device within
the article dispensing device which compares the **second** transaction code on
the validated token as entered in the comparator device with the **first**
transaction code which has been communicated by said communication
15 device, and [delivery of] **said article dispensing device delivering** the
article when there is a defined code correspondence, [characterised in that]
wherein the non-validated token is issued by an article token selection
panel device that displays articles for which a related non-validated
token can be issued on activation of the panel,
20 **wherein the issued non-validated token carries information that is**
related to a unique token number and/ or the article type,
wherein the validated token **provided by said checkout unit** is a
[substitute] token [for] **which substitutes or supplements** the non-
validated token, said [substitute] **validated** token being issued by the
25 checkout unit from a token dispenser, from a token printer, or from a supply
of pre-made, non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable
tokens, **and wherein** the validated token **carries said second** transaction
code **which is** selected from the group consisting of:
- a serially generated transaction code,
30 - a randomly generated transaction code,
- a pre-determined series of transaction codes, and
- a unique token number generated serially or randomly by **the article**
token selection panel device which provides such number on the non-
validated token[; and that the validated token is a substitute token for the
35 non-validated token, said substitute token being issued by the checkout unit
from a token dispenser, from a token printer, or from a supply of pre-made,
non-alterable, reusable, revalidatable and machine-readable tokens].

3. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[characterised in that] **wherein** said device for providing the non-validated
token is a printer which is controlled by a selection panel that displays
articles for which a non-validated token can be printed on activation thereof,
5 **and wherein the non-validated token carries article type information**
selected from the group consisting of : a numerical code, a bar code, an
EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label
readable code, a manually interpretable article identification code,
animation of the article, article name, and article price.

4. (*canceled*)

5. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim [4] 1,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article type information is selected
from the group consisting of: a ~~numerical~~ code, a bar code, an EAN code,
a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, **and**
5 a manually interpretable article identification code.

6. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 5,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article type information is additionally
selected from the group consisting of: animation of the article, article
name[;] **and** article price [; ~~a unique token number~~].

7. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the **second** transaction code [~~provided on~~
~~the validated token~~] is selected from the group consisting of:
a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a magnetically
5 readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers, a series of
letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least one row
of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, **and** a pre-programmed IC
chip.

8. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** communication between the checkout unit
and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:
- ultrasound transmission,
5 - electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission,
- transmission via a retailer's or trader's central computer unit, and
10 general merchandise transaction control unit.

9. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the checkout unit comprises or is
connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also
comprising [~~an article type information~~] **a** scanner device **for scanning**
5 **the non-validated token**, wherein [~~the~~] said scanner device is for
communicating [~~said~~] information to the encoder device, the [~~said~~]
checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device via said
token encoder device, wherein the [~~said~~] token encoder device transmits
said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing
10 during a payment receipt operation, and wherein the [~~said~~] encoder device
also has a control unit for controlling [~~a printer for the issue of the~~
~~validated article token, and~~] a device for transmitting said **first**
transaction code communication to the article dispensing device.

10. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the **second** transaction code on the
validated token is entered in the comparator device through machine
reading of the **second** transaction code, said machine being selected from
5 the group consisting of:
- OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- an IC chip reader,
10 - a punched hole reader, **and**
- an rf label code reader.

11. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article dispensing device has a manually
operated keypad, keyboard or touch screen for input of a manually readable
second transaction code on the validated token into the comparator unit.

12. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the first transaction code which is
communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction
code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes that are
5 related to each other, [e.g.,] **and selected from the group consisting of**
complementary codes, symmetrical codes [or] **and** unsymmetrical codes.

13. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the selection panel **on the selection panel**
device is a touch screen.

14. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 1,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the validated token is a part of or consists of
packaging for the article that is to be dispensed.

15. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim [14] **2**,
[characterised in that] **wherein the validated token is a part of or**
consists of packaging for the article that is to be dispensed and
wherein said second transaction code on the validated token is on the
5 processing thereof in the checkout unit applicable to the packaging **or**
part thereof, transmittable to the packaging **or part thereof**, or [is]
provided by uncovering an area on the packaging **or part thereof** that
bears the transaction code.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[characterised in that] **wherein** communication between the checkout unit
and the article dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of:

- ultrasound transmission,
- 5 - electro-optical transmission,
- rf transmission,
- bluetooth transmission
- wired transmission, transmission via a retailer's or trader's central
10 computer unit and general merchandise transaction control unit.

18. (currently amended) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the checkout unit comprises or is connected
to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout unit also comprising [an
article type information] **a** scanner device **for scanning the non-validated**
5 **token**, wherein the [said] scanner device is for communicating said
information to the encoder device, the [said] checkout unit communicating
with the article dispensing device via said token encoder device, wherein the
[said] token encoder device transmits said information to a cash register in
said checkout unit for processing during a payment receipt operation, and
10 wherein the [said] encoder device also has a control unit for controlling a
printer for the issue of the validated article token, and a device for
transmitting said communication **relating to said first transaction code** to
the article dispensing device.

19. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the **second** transaction code on the
validated token is entered in the comparator device through machine
reading of the transaction code, said machine being selected from the
5 group consisting of:

- OCR reader,
- optical scanner for scanning a bar code or an EAN code,
- an electromagnetic magnetic strip reader,
- an IC chip reader,
- 10 - a punched hole reader, **and**
- an rf label code reader.

20. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the article dispensing device has a
manually operated keypad, keyboard or touch screen for input of a
manually readable transaction code on the validated token into the
5 comparator unit.

21. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[~~characterised in that~~] **wherein** the first transaction code which is
communicated to the article dispensing device and the second transaction
code provided on the validated token are the same codes or codes that are
5 related to each other, [e.g.,] **and are selected from the group consisting**
of complementary codes, symmetrical codes [or] **and** unsymmetrical
codes.

22. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article type information is selected
from the group consisting of: a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code,
a UPC code, a magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, **and**
5 a manually interpretable article identification code.

23. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the article type information is additionally
selected from the group consisting of: animation of the article, article
name, **and** article price[,a unique token number].

24. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2
[characterised in that] **wherein** the **second** transaction code [~~provided on~~
~~the validated token~~] is selected from the group consisting of:
a numerical code, a bar code, an EAN code, a UPC code, a
5 magnetically readable code, an rf label readable code, a series of numbers,
a series of letters, a series of a combination of numbers and letters, at least
one row of punched holes, a programmable IC chip, **and** a pre-
programmed IC chip.

25. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the selection panel **on the selection panel**
device is a touch screen.

26. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[characterised in that] **wherein** the validated token is a part of or consists of
packaging for the article that is to be dispensed.

27. (*currently amended*) A system as disclosed in claim 2,
[characterised in that] **wherein the second** transaction code on the
validated token is on the processing thereof in the checkout unit
applicable to the packaging **or part thereof** , transmittable to the
5 packaging **or part thereof**, or [is] provided by uncovering an area on the
packaging **or part thereof** that [bears] **carries** the transaction code.

28. (*new*) A system as disclosed in claim 2, wherein the checkout unit
comprises or is connected to a transaction code encoder device, the checkout
unit also comprising a scanner device for scanning the non-validated token,
wherein the scanner device is for communicating information to the encoder
5 device, said checkout unit communicating with the article dispensing device
via said token encoder device, wherein said token encoder device transmits
said information to a cash register in said checkout unit for processing
during a payment receipt operation, wherein the encoder device is
cooperative with a token dispenser which provides tokens with said second
10 transaction code for validation by scanning in the checkout unit, and wherein
said encoder device controls a device for transmitting said first transaction
codes to the article dispensing device.